



S/N 10/658,802

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Steven C. Zimmel	Examiner:	To Be Assigned
Serial No.:	10/658,802	Group Art Unit:	2874
Filed:	September 8, 2003	Docket:	2316.1801US01
Confirmation No.:	1818		
Customer No.:	23552		
Title:	Fiber Optic Cable and Furcation Module		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d):

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 25, 2004.

By:

Patricia L. Larrimore

Name: Patricia L. Larrimore

DECLARATION OF STEVEN C. ZIMMEL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, Steven C. Zimmel, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the named inventor of the patent application Serial No. 10/658,802, filed on September 8, 2003, entitled "Fiber Optic Cable and Furcation Module.
2. At the time the above-referenced application was filed, I was aware of the prior art listed on the Form 1449 and Information Disclosure Statement accompanying this Declaration.
3. Exhibit I listed on the Form 1449 is a photograph of an existing ADC Telecommunications Inc., product that was being offered for sale as of the date of filing of the present application. ADC Telecommunications, Inc., is the assignee of the present application. The photograph of Exhibit I includes a cluster of fiber optic furcation devices labeled A in the Exhibit. These furcation devices each receive a multi-strand fiber cable in a first end and have a plurality of single-strand fiber cables exiting a second, opposite end. Inside the furcation devices, no provision is made to allow for the relative expansion or contraction differences between the fiber itself and the outer cladding of the optical fiber cables.
4. Exhibit II listed on the Form 1449 is a brochure for a cable assembly offered for sale by FOnetworks, Inc., of Oxford, MA. This brochure appears to show a furcation device

with a single multi-strand fiber cable entering a first end of a furcation device and a plurality of single-strand fiber cables exiting a second end of the furcation device in the cable assembly. This product appears to be the similar to the ADC product disclosed in Exhibit A. This product does not appear to include space to allow for any relative fiber length differences caused by differential expansion or contraction between the fiber and the outer cladding.

5. Both of the products in the Exhibits described above illustrate the nature of the prior art as discussed in the Specification and shown in FIGS. 1 to 3 of the present application.

6. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 25-March, 2004

Name: _____


Steven C. Zimmer